

## The Times-Dispatch

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### A Whiff at Optimism.

In spite of the "startling disclosures" in political and financial circles within the past several months, The Times-Dispatch has taken the optimistic view, and has warned its readers not to lose their faith in public and private officials. We are pleased that Mr. William Allen White takes the same optimistic view in an article contributed to the current issue of The Outlook. Mr. White declares that while there are dirty spots, American politics is, on the whole, fairly clean; that the most corrupt city councils and State legislatures pass more good laws than bad laws, and that in the average legislature the number of iniquitous measures passed is infinitesimal as compared with the gross amount of good work done, and that if it is hard for a poor man to get justice in the courts, the fact is not due to corruption there, but rather to the red tape and the high price for good lawyers. He refers to the postal scandals, but says that of all the thousands of men at work in the department, less than one hundred were stealing; that every guilty man is now in the penitentiary or is going there as fast as a dill pickle, and that inexcusable law can send them.

He agrees with The Times-Dispatch that the moral perception of the people has grown, and with its standard of righteousness. He says that public sentiment has practically barred the drunkard from politics; that the bribe-taker hides his ill-gotten gains, whereas twenty-five years ago he splurged and was not ashamed. That the "prerequisite of office" is disappearing; that honest men are scornful of congressmen who take unearned mileage, unused stationery and unnecessary clerk hire; that the legislative junket has been reformed considerably, while the "big drum draught" of the senatorial funeral has been practically abandoned.

No notes distinct manifestation of this growth of moral perception of the people in State government, and cites several notable examples to show that the Governor is no longer regarded as a figure-head, but that the people have made him a part of their government, and that he is making it his business to see that the laws of the State are enforced, and that the interests of the State and of people are conserved.

Moreover, he makes bold to say that the people are no longer afraid of the use of money grossly in politics, because events of the past five years have taught them that wealth is not success, and that money does not prove that its possessor is either a good or a great man. He asserts that money is losing its political power, and that as the power of money in politics goes down, respect for the law comes up. "There have been times in the history of this world," he continues, "when the law was more of a terror than it is to-day to the poor and ignorant; but in this country there has never been a time before this when the law has reached into high places with such a stern hand as it is reaching to-day. Not merely have United States senators been indicted for common crime, but the men who make United States senators, the trust magnates and their serving men, are being hauled into court for alleged violations of law. Business methods and motives are probably no more greedy and dishonorable now than they have been since the organization of commerce, but the people are acquiring the moral sense and moral courage to restrain the greed and punish the dishonor of business, without respect to the worldly station of the business offenders; and all this, too, without anger, without vicious envy, without malicious class feeling, but with a fine spirit of American fair play and love of equity that proves the stability of the movement."

That is a fine phrase, and we believe it to be literally true. Never has civic righteousness been preached so earnestly and so universally, and never before have

the people so earnestly taken the sermons to heart. The standard of public and private morals has been raised. There is more of civic righteousness among us people to-day than in any generation that that preceded, and, as Mr. White says in conclusion, as the people grow honest, their government will grow honest.

Let us not be discouraged by these revelations. Let us rather rejoice and take hope in the fact that the grafters have been exposed, and not only exposed, but honestly condemned by public sentiment, and that every guilty man of them will receive the punishment which the law provides. We are having a house-cleaning, and while the work is disgusting and nauseating, when the floors shall have been swept and garnished, the atmosphere will be sweet and pure. Let us have faith.

### As to Insanity and Genius.

The lightning of the press has touched modestly a disappointed lady of New York, who, having married a man under the impression that he was a genius, later discovered that he was merely insane. The lady proved fully equal to the emergency. She clapped the deceptive bridegroom into an asylum, and promptly applied for a divorce.

An interesting question arises in this connection as to whether both the woman's estimates of her husband may not have been correct. The gentleman may conceivably have been now a genius, now insane. The line of demarcation between the two is often so slight as to be invisible to the naked eye. "Genius is abnormal," a woman novelist makes one of her characters say; "therefore I hold that it must be abnormal at some period of its career."

The celebrated dictum that genius is no more than the infinite capacity for taking pains is scarcely consistent with modern scientific study of the brain. In the course of his able and interesting work on "The Diseases of Society," Dr. G. F. Lydston remarks that "in the genius the brain-cell groups from which certain faculties emanate are refined and developed at the expense of other cell-groups." Here is the whole thing condensed into a nutshell by twentieth century medicine: Here is genius shorn of all mystery and divinity, and degraded to a mere product of cerebral physiology. Dr. Lydston also quotes in his argument the somewhat startling statement of Arthur MacDonald that "the principal and extreme forms of human abnormality are insanity, genius and crime." Only a page or two later we read this: "Clouston holds that there are numerous examples of persons of insane temperament, whose qualities range from those of the inspired idiot to those of the inspired genius. He claims that Goldsmith, Shelley, Lamb, Cowper, De Quincey, Turner and Tasso were of insane temperament."

Genius as here understood is of course, not to be confounded with mere talent, in however high a degree. In the scientific acceptance, genius is attributable to physical peculiarities in the formation or malformation of the brain; and it is not infrequently correlated, as Dr. Lydston's illustrations show, with one or another aspect of physical degeneracy.

Of this point of view the rudely awakened lady in New York can be expected to know nothing. She only apprehends that her husband, the quondam genius, is now too obviously a madman. From the intimacy of relationship that exists between the "inspired idiot" and the "inspired genius" she is probably able to draw no lot nor title of consolation.

### The Primary.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Please answer in your query column the following questions:  
(1) Does the names of Governor Montague and Senator Martin appear on the ticket in the primary to be held August 22d?

(2) Do their names appear on the ticket in the general election in November?

(3) Has the Legislature the legal right to vote against the nominee of that primary?

READER.

To question one the answer is, yes.

To question two the answer is, no.

To question three the answer is, yes. The senatorial primary is confusing. The Constitution of the United States provides that the Senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof for six years.

Therefore we cannot elect a senator by popular vote, but Democratic voters may by primary election, or otherwise, nominate a candidate to be voted for by the Democratic members of the Legislature. Candidates for that nomination will be voted for in the State Democratic primary to be held on August 22d, and the names of such candidates, will, of course, appear on the primary election ticket, as also the names of candidates for Governor and other State officers.

After the candidates have been nominated in the primary the names of the nominees for Governor and other State officers will appear on the ticket in the general State election to be held in November, but not the name of the nominee for senator, as the senator is to be elected by the Legislature and not by the people.

As a matter of party rule and party honor, the Democratic nominee for senator will be voted for by Democratic members of the Legislature, but no member of the Legislature, Democratic or Republican, will be legally bound to do so.

### The Value of Preparation.

Rev. Dr. Hamlin, Secretary Hay's pastor, tells in the Sunday School Times some entertaining anecdotes concerning his distinguished parishioner. Among other things, he relates that when Mr. Hay was asked last winter to "say a few words" on an occasion of importance, he replied: "I cannot do it. I could not do it in the sense that you mean. Should I comply with your request, I must painfully prepare myself at the cost of a week's steady work."

the rule of his life to give intelligent and painstaking attention to every word that he undertakes to say, and who does the best service, and who is sure, by and by, to make a reputation.

But we do not mean to preach a sermon. We refer to the incident more especially by way of giving a hint to public speakers, especially to the young men who are just entering the field. The man who thoroughly prepares himself for an occasion; who makes his speech with care; who knows it through and through; who begins at the beginning and speaks definitely and with confidence, and who concludes when he is done, may reasonably count upon having the attention of his audience, if not their approval and praise.

It is the careless, slipshod, uncertain, scattering, off-repeating speaker who tires his audience and brings forth the inevitable sigh of relief at the end. A speaker may think that he can deceive his audience in this respect, but he is wrong; the average hearer knows perfectly well, long before the speaker is through, whether he has prepared himself, or has simply "trusted to the inspiration of the occasion."

Thorough preparation in all things is half the victory.

### A Politician's Retrospect.

Senator Thomas C. Platt, of New York, is just seventy-two years of age, and in excellent health, but says that he wants but five years more of life.

"I don't think it has been worth while," said he, in an interview, "if I had it to do over again, I should model my political life along other lines."

"Would you have the years come back for another chance?" he was asked.

"No," was the reply, "I would not, but I would do much differently."

"Why? How differently?"

"I should rather not say," replied the senator. "It would lead to developments."

I do not wish anything to develop from the statement that the years have not been worth the battle or that I would live out a different political policy from the one I have so long pursued."

"Yet you have been successful?"

"Perhaps," was the answer. "I have some dear old friends."

That sounds much like the wall of Solomon. "All is vanity." Let the younger generation of politicians take heed. The day of retrospect is coming by and by—the day of reckoning—the day when a man shall scan his record and shall say, "I have pleasure in it," or "I have no pleasure in it," according to the quality of it. Every politician in Virginia is making his record. How will it be when it shall have been completed and how will the politician regard it?

Senator Platt has given a very solemn warning.

It seemed to us a fair conclusion that the qualifying clause in the letter of Mr. T. A. Brown, of Prince George, on Richmond politics, published in our Sunday issue, was intended to be ironical, but Mr. Brown gives assurance that it was not so intended, that he did not mean to refer to Mr. Meredith and associates as tricky politicians, and we gladly accept his disclaimer.

We hope that the complication of a woman in the Agricultural Department little difficulty, will not give rise to the phrase "female graft." We shall object to that expression on strictly grammatical grounds.

First Capitalist—"Good morning! Have you been investigated?"

Second Dile—"Why, good morning! Yes, twice; but I wasn't guilty. By the way, is my tail on straight?"

The linotype made us say in yesterday's paper that Peary was "nearly forty years of age." It should have been "fifty." Indeed the Century Dictionary says he was born in 1824.

The suicide of Emil Parion serves to remind the public that there was an old Panama canal scandal, too.

Let us hope the sun will now grow a few spots big, and black enough to shake things off a few.

It appears now that Senator Depew was himself greatly in need of "advisory counsel."

The Governor-General of Poland has issued orders to run all Poles into the ground.

It certainly is. But it's grossly unfair to blame it all on the weather man.

Just whose press agent "Scotty" is, has not yet come fully to light.

"In all time of our prosperity, good Lord deliver us."

Better pay your taxes; you may run for office some day.

Wouldn't you like to have Peary's job?

The results of observation and experiments of cholera leads to the conclusion that the disease is introduced into the body through food, and probably also water, infected with the bacteria, causing the disease. Fowls eat their dead at every opportunity, which practice must be strictly guarded against during an outbreak. Contamination from the infectious droppings is prevented by disinfecting the roosting houses daily and by feeding from troughs designed to prevent fowls from walking in the feed. The same end is favored by moving infected colonies to fresh ground.

Possible infection through the drinking water is prevented by placing a weak solution of carbolic sublimate in the drinking water troughs. The prompt slaughter and thorough disposal of all sick hens during an outbreak contribute toward preventing the spread of the disease. The evidence goes to show that fowl cholera is a comparatively easy disease to control, but disinfection must be continued after the death-rate becomes insignificant.

The dissemination of the disease in some cases is undoubtedly due to careless disposal of the dead. The movement of sick fowls is of importance in the same connection.

Marriage licenses have been issued to Abe Stein and Mollie Linker, Frank Brennan and Lillian C. Kennedy.

## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

### Killing Young Pines.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Please inform us through the columns of your paper whether young pines, two or three feet high, can be exterminated by chopping them down with axes, and, if so, at what season of the year? J. E. M.

Young pines can be killed by chopping them off at the ground now. The stumps will soon decay, and the land should be cultivated and put in grass to prevent more bushes from growing again.

### Chemical Directors.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Please publish the directors of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company.

B. B. Addison, Richmond, Va.; James N. Boyd, Richmond, Va.; John B. Dennis, New York City; James H. Duke, Somerville, N. J.; Norman S. Moulden, New York City; Samuel T. Morgan, Richmond, Va.; R. J. Reynolds, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Samuel Spencer, New York City; E. T. Stotesbury, Philadelphia, Pa.; Henry Walters, New York City; George W. Warr, Durham, N. C.; T. C. Williams, Jr., Richmond.

### 'Good-Bye.'

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Will you kindly publish in your Sunday Times-Dispatch the old song beginning, "Farewell, farewell, to a lonely sound?" A SUBSCRIBER.

Farewell, farewell is a lonely sound, And always brings a sigh; But give to me when loved ones part That sweet old song—"Good-bye."

Farewell, farewell may do for the day, And when the heart is lonely; But give to me that better word, That comes from the heart—"Good-bye."

Adieu! adieu! we hear it oft With a tear, perhaps with a sigh; But the heart feels most when the lips move not, And the eyes speak the gentle "Good-bye."

Farewell, farewell is never heard When the heart is in the mother's eye; And when she looks at her child, it is not, But, "My love, good-bye, good-bye!"

### The School-Book Question.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—It seems to me your answer to the questions of G. W. C. in your issue of the 12th in reference to the multiple school book list are not very explicit.

Will you not kindly answer the following in your Sunday issue?

1. Do not the records show that Governor A. J. Montague, who now seeks the Democratic nomination for United States senator, was the only member of the State Education Board who worked and voted for the single book list, which was defeated, but which, if it had been adopted, would have saved to our citizens all over the State of Virginia thousands of dollars, besides any amount of annoyance to mothers, fathers and teachers, as well as the children themselves and their school books?

2. Is it not an admitted fact that Governor Montague had nothing whatever to do with the appointment of Messrs. McGilvray and Thomas, and is it not also a fact that when Governor Montague's attention was called to these matters, that he promptly insisted upon a full and thorough investigation?

S. W. C.

1. The question of single and multiple lists was considered at great length by the State Board of Education, and many plans were considered. We understand, however, that in the end Governor Montague did offer a resolution to adopt the single list, and that it received only his own vote.

2. Governor Montague did not appoint either Mr. McGilvray or Mr. Thomas.

### The Governor and the Lee Statue.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—It is stated Governor Montague vetoed a bill of the Virginia Legislature to place the statue of Lee in the "Hall of Fame" in Washington. If this is true, what were his reasons?

M. S. FLOYD.

Governor Montague did not veto the resolution of the Legislature relative to the placing of the statue of General Lee in the Hall of Fame. He did not sign the bill, however, because it was represented to him that the family of General Lee were opposed to pushing the matter at this time. The Governor was also in receipt of a great many letters from prominent ex-Confederate soldiers throughout the State, among them being the late General William H. Payne, who urged him not to sign the bill, upon the ground that it would be in bad taste to place the statue in the hall when there was objection to it.

No one reverses the name of Lee more than the Governor, and he felt confident that in a few years there would be a sentiment in the North in favor of placing the statue in the hall, whereas at the time of the passage of the resolution in question there was opposition to it.

### Hen Cholera.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Is there any remedy or protection against hen cholera? This disease not only causes a very great loss in the death of the fowls, but may make the wholesome food for food great numbers of chickens and eggs, for no one can know when the germ of the disease is present. The prevalence and deadly nature of this disease demands that it should be stamped out, if possible.

FRANCIS JERDENE.

The results of observation and experiments of cholera leads to the conclusion that the disease is introduced into the body through food, and probably also water, infected with the bacteria, causing the disease. Fowls eat their dead at every opportunity, which practice must be strictly guarded against during an outbreak. Contamination from the infectious droppings is prevented by disinfecting the roosting houses daily and by feeding from troughs designed to prevent fowls from walking in the feed. The same end is favored by moving infected colonies to fresh ground.

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## RHYMES FOR TODAY

### Foiled Again; or His Wife's Cigar.

(Disgusted by his wife's cigar, a man left the smoking-car a few minutes before a collision killed everybody on board it.)

To many old fogies, The worst of all bogies, Is smoking the stogie, That comes from our wives.

We sold 'em and use 'em, And bite them and curse 'em— While they save our lives.

Sought the smoking compartment, A man whose kind heart meant To smoke the allotment, His wife bought to choke.

He smoked till, quite dizzy, He left, and where is he? Safe! Saved by his Lizzy, Who bought that mean smoke.

No more they'll provoke us! Hail, strange hocus-pocus, That irritates smokers, He smoked till, quite dizzy, He left, and where is he?

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